



Summer
May – August

NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

Lewis Creek Visitor Center



Parks & Community Services
Natural Resource Division

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Special Events

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

June 13 – August 17

Lewis Creek Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Have some great nature shots taken in Bellevue Parks that you want to share with the community? Enter Lewis Creek Park's Nature Photography Contest! The winner's photographs will be displayed at Bellevue Parks premiere environmental education centers. Winner will be announced August 31st.

Ages: All ages.

Registration: Not required.

Cost: FREE!

Info: 425-452-4195.

For Official Rules and Regulations, please contact Lewis Creek Visitor Center.



Local Area Hikes

Did you know Bellevue has almost 100 parks and over 80 miles of trail to explore? Get connected to your local greenbelts and neighborhood parks as rangers take you on hikes throughout the year. Please dress for the weather, bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Hikes vary in theme and length. Please see details below. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

MERCER SLOUGH RANGER HIKES

Every Saturday, 2 – 3 p.m. (unless other programs are being presented)

Join a Park Ranger for a free, guided tour and learn about the fascinating flora, fauna, and history of the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Please dress for weather.

Distance: 1 mile.

Elevation Change: 35 ft.

Meeting Place: *Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave SE* **Info:** 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

LEWIS CREEK PARK RANGER HIKE

Saturdays: June 7, July 5, August 2, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Join a Ranger in exploring the natural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. All ages welcome. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.

Distance: 2 miles. **Elevation Change:** 50 ft.

Meeting Place: *Lewis Creek Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE* **Info:** 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

COAL CREEK PARK HIKE

May 17, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Discover Bellevue's largest park and get lost in the wilderness while still in the city! This area is rich in history and wildlife.

Distance: 5 miles. **Elevation Change:** Moderate (100 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: *Redtown Trailhead (Cougar Mountain) on Lakemont Blvd SE.* **Info:** 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

LEWIS CREEK TO LAKEMONT COMMUNITY PARK HIKE

June 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This lovely trail winds through green corridors to connect two of Bellevue's most beautiful parks.

Distance: 4.5 miles. **Elevation Change:** Difficult (350 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: *Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE* **Info:** 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

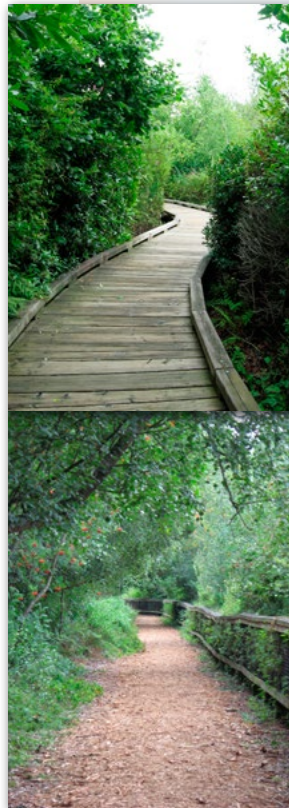
WEOWNA PARK HIKE

July 19, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bridges, waterfalls, and Bellevue's oldest trees live in Weowna Park. Explore this deep ravine that was restored using bioengineering techniques.

Distance: 3 miles. **Elevation Change:** Moderate (200 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: *168th Ave SE & 19th St. Limited Parking. Carpooling encouraged.*



LAKEMONT HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE

August 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Explore the unknown trails of South Bellevue. Parks and open space ravines guide you (and wildlife!) through friendly neighborhoods.

Distance: 3.5 miles. **Elevation Change:** Difficult (350 feet elevation)

Meeting Place: **Lewis Creek Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE**

Info: 425-452-4195 or lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

WOOF WALKS IN NATURE

May 10, June 14, July 12, August 23

10 – 11 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger and discover fascinating ecological facts about Bellevue City Parks. Bring your dog and learn how you can both help the city steward these valuable lands. Please dress for the weather. Families are encouraged to attend. Dogs must be on a leash.

Meeting Place: **Lake Hills Greenbelt Community Garden Kiosk:**

15500 SE 16th St.

Cost: FREE! **Info:** 425-452-7225 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov

TRACKS

BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY THROUGH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

The TRACKS Outdoor Initiative wants you to get outside. Through events such as backpacking camps for teens, day trips to the mountains for families, or evenings with inspiring explorers, TRACKS will take you on an adventure. We offer opportunities to explore the wilderness and can help you build the skills and confidence necessary to develop your own lifelong relationship with nature.

Info: Specific TRACKS events, or opportunities to get your group outside, contact Jenna Walenga at jwalenga@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6883.

To keep up to date on upcoming opportunities follow TRACKS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BellevueTRACKS or <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/tracks.htm>





MERCER SLOUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE

Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Phone:** 425-452-2565

Email: MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov

Overlooking the 320 acre Mercer Slough Nature Park, the Visitor Center offers remarkable view of the forest canopy and swampy wetlands below. Inside, enjoy an interactive library and interpretive displays for adults and families. Park Rangers provide information and free weekly programs. Pick up trail maps, brochures, and program information today.

Family Discovery Series



WILD BABIES

Sunday, May 4, May 25, 2 – 3 p.m.

Springtime is when many species give birth. Discover some of the amazing ways wild babies survive and thrive out in the woods.

Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE!

Registration: Not required.

BEAVERS

Sunday, June 22, June 29, 2 – 3 p.m.

Did you know that you can find beavers at Mercer Slough? Learn about the beaver's amazing adaptations, how they shape the habitat around them, and why Mercer Slough's beavers are unique.

Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.

ASTRONOMY OF THE SUN

Sunday, July 13, July 20, 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Why are the days longer during the summer? How does extended daylight affect wildlife and what does that mean for humans? Also, discover how the sun powers all of Earth's systems.

Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



Program Registration: www.myparksandrecreation.com

TREE WALK

Sunday, August 10, August 17, 2 – 3 p.m.

Come learn about the native trees in your neighborhood! We'll be going on a tree walk to learn how trees fit into our urban ecosystem, and why they're so valuable. **Ages:** All ages are welcome.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



CANOE THE MERCER SLOUGH

Canoe the Mercer Slough (ranger-led trip), Saturdays & Sundays, Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day weekend. (No trips June 14th/15th, August 2nd/3rd)



Meeting Place: Enatai Beach Park, 3519 108th Ave SE

Explore the beautiful Mercer Slough Nature Park by water! Bellevue park rangers lead this 3-hour canoe trip from Enatai Beach Park. You'll see how this amazing ecosystem functions as you travel into the heart of Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 320 acre wetland. With a little luck, you may catch a glimpse of the otters, herons, turtles and other wildlife of Mercer Slough. Canoeing experience is required.

Ages: 5+ only. **Cost:** \$16 Resident; \$18 Non-Resident.

Register: www.MyParksAndRecreation.com or call 425-452-2565.

Info: 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov.

Guest Speaker Series

WOLF HAVEN

Sunday, June 8, 2 – 3 p.m.

Join WA based conservation agency, Wolf Haven, for this informative family program on Washington's wolves. **Ages:** Best for ages 8+.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov.

Adult Enrichment Series

WETLAND WILDFLOWERS

Sunday, May 11, 2 – 3 p.m.

Bring mom and join a Ranger for this fun, informal, Mother's Day wildflower walk. See what Mercer Slough has to offer during the springtime wildflower months! **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



Movies

WILD AMERICA: TENDER TIMES

Friday, May 30, 5 – 6 p.m.

Share this magical time in the lives of adolescent animals as we explore the enchanting world of wild babies. Popcorn provided!

Ages: All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.

BEAVERS

Friday, June 27, 5 – 6 p.m.

Beavers plunges into the rich aquatic habitat of one of nature's greatest engineers for an intimate look.

Popcorn provided! **Ages:** Best for ages 5+. **Cost:** FREE!

Registration: Not required.

THE VANISHING OF THE BEES

Friday, July 25, 5 – 6 p.m.

Join us in this collaboration with Whole Foods Market, Bellevue for a screening of the award winning film The Vanishing of the Bees. Snacks provided! **Ages:** All ages are welcome. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** RSVP requested.



EMPIRES OF INDUSTRY: TIMBER!

Friday, August 29, 5 – 6 p.m.

A History Channel film, this program visits logging camps and timber mills, tracking de-forestation and re-forestation in a country now attempting to renew its natural resources. Popcorn provided!

Ages: Best for ages 8+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is a collaboration between the City of Bellevue and the Pacific Science Center. For information on programs provided by Pacific Science Center, please visit www.pacificsciencecenter.org.





LAKE HILLS GREENBELT

R A N G E R S T A T I O N

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th Street

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 4p.m. **Phone:** 425-452-7225

Email: ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov

Surrounded by community farms, gardens, and beautiful wetlands, you will find interpretive displays, trails, environmental program information, and friendly Park Rangers to answer your questions.

Family Discovery Series

SPRING IS HERE!

May 16, 10 – 11 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger to learn about all of the changes that the arrival of spring brings to the Lake Hills Greenbelt! We will do a fun spring craft to take home and read a children's story. Please dress for the weather. Families are encouraged to attend. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Required. **Course#:** 8509. **Info & Registration:** 425-452-7225 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov.

BATS AND BUGS

June 20, 10 – 11 a.m.

Have you ever wondered what bats we have around Bellevue and when they are here? How much or what they eat? What exactly do these little flying mammals do? If so come by the Ranger Station to discover all about bats and their relationship with bugs. Families are encouraged to attend.

Cost: FREE! **Registration:** Required. **Course#:** 85115.

Info & Registration: 425-452-7225 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov.



Program Registration: www.myparksandrecreation.com

BUZZING BLUEBERRIES

July 25, August 8, 2 – 3 p.m.

Bellevue has some wonderful opportunities for picking blueberries. How do the berries grow? It all starts with a bee or other pollinator. Bring your family to discover how important our pollinators are for blueberries and other plants, then you can check in with farm stands to pick blueberries. Farm stand rates apply to u-pick purchases. Please dress for the weather. Families are encouraged to attend.

Cost: FREE! Plus U-pick blueberry rates.

Registration: Required. **Course#:** 85116 for 7/25 & 85117 for 8/8. **Info & Registration:** 425-452-7225 or ParkRangerProgram@bellevuewa.gov.



Illustration by Linda M. Feltner



LEWIS CREEK

VISITOR CENTER

Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m **Phone:** 425-452-4195

Email: lcvc@bellevuewa.gov

This beautiful park offers ample opportunity to wander through forests, meadows, and wetlands. Come inside the Visitor Center to pick up trail and park maps for the area, attend a Natural Resource program, or simply enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Family Discovery Series

Story Time

Look, listen and create during an hour of stories and crafts with a park ranger on the 1st Friday of every month. Parents and children will explore together the diverse animal world with animated fiction and fun. All children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration is required.

Ages: 3+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident; \$3 Non-Resident. **Register** at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

PLANT A LITTLE SEED

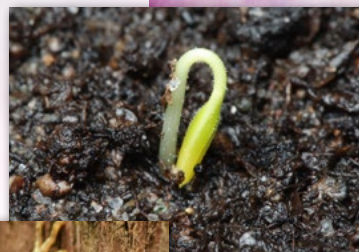
June 6, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Learn all about planting a garden, and different ways that seeds are dispersed. We always make a fun craft to take home! **Course #:** 85176, 85177

FUN WITH FROGS

July 11, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Find out the different places that frogs live and how humans can help them survive. We always make a fun craft to take home! **Course #:** 85178, 85179



SEE WHAT'S IN THE SEA

August 1, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Follow the adventures of a hermit crab as he tries to find a new shell and discover what lives along the shore! We always make a fun craft to take home! **Course #:** 85180, 85181



Explorers' Club

GREEN HOUR

May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, 1 – 2 p.m.

Join us the 3rd Friday of every month from 1-2pm for a Green Hour at Lewis Creek Park! Observe and explore the park during an hour of unstructured play and interaction with the natural world. Each month, creative, science-based ideas will have children and parents deepening their knowledge and love of nature together!

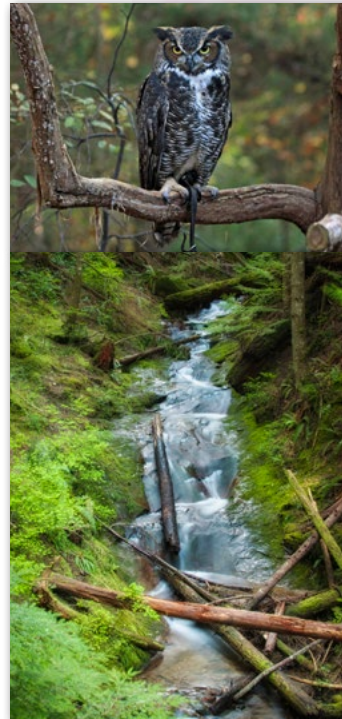
Ages: 5+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.

OWL PROWL

May 23, July 18, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Discover what owl species live in the Pacific Northwest. Then take a night hike with the Rangers to look for owls and other nocturnal wildlife in the park. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes, for the journey! Registration required. **Ages:** 5+. **Cost:** \$5 Resident \$6 Non-Resident **Register** at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Course #: 85156 for 5/23 & 85157 for 7/18



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S STREAM

June 13, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

SSSSSHHHHHH!!! What do you see and hear at a stream on a summer's night? Quietly observe Lewis Creek with a Ranger, and find out what the creek is like at night! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! Registration required. **Ages:** 5+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident; \$3 Non-Resident.

Register at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Course #: 85158

MONOCULAR MAKING

June 28, 1 – 2 p.m.

Magnifying things in nature can make them easier to learn about. We will make our own monocular and explore the park with our new eye! Registration required. **Ages:** 6+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident; \$3 Non-Resident. **Register** at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

Course #: 85159

THE FOOD CHAIN

July 26, 1 – 2 p.m.

All living things depend on each other to survive. Who do you depend on? Learn about the web of life as you create your very own food chain model to take home! Registration required.

Ages: 6+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident; \$3 Non-Resident.

Register at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195. **Course #:** 85160

HURRIED HUMMINGBIRDS

August 9, 1 – 2 p.m.

Did you know that a hummingbird flaps its wings 40-80 times per second? Or that they must eat more than half their body weight in nectar every day? Come learn about these amazingly agile birds, and make a hummingbird feeder to take home!

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

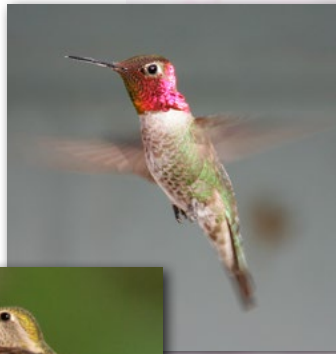
NIGHT HIKE

August 22, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

When the sun sets and the dark of night creeps in Lewis Creek comes alive! Learn about the different nocturnal and crepuscular species that call Bellevue home, and join a Ranger on a hike through the woods after dark! Bring a flashlight or headlamp, as well as good shoes and warm clothes, for the journey! Registration required.

Ages: 5+. **Cost:** \$2 Resident; \$3 Non-Resident.

Register at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195. **Course #:** 85162



POND DIP

August 30, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

The edges of ponds and wetlands are great places for budding naturalists to explore! We will use tools like dip nets and water scopes to get a closer look at the wetland creatures of Lewis Creek Park... what will we find in this unfamiliar under-water world?! **Ages:** 5+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.



Children's Movies

Kids! Join us for fun, educational nature movies at Lewis Creek! Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration:** Not required. **Cost:** FREE! **Info:** 425-452-4195.

GROWING UP WILD: KITTENS AND KABOODLES

May 11, 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Growing up Wild gives fun and entertaining insight into the animal kingdom. In this episode find out all about leopards, cheetahs, lions, tigers, and more! Run time 30 mins.



WILD KRATTS: MYSTERY OF THE SQUIRMY WORMY

June 8, 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Join the adventures of the Kratt brothers as they meet up with cool creatures from around the world. Each episode is an adventure that also features how animals use science in their natural lives. Run time 30 mins. Donations gratefully accepted.

REALLY WILD ANIMALS: TOTALLY TROPICAL RAINFOREST

July 13, 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Take a totally tropical trip to the rainforest and meet jaguars, poison-arrow frogs, sloths, monkeys, and more! Run time 40 mins.

WILD KRATTS: HONEY SEEKERS

August 10, 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Join the adventures of the Kratt brothers as they meet up with cool creatures from around the world. Each episode is an adventure that also features how animals use science in their natural lives. Run time 30 mins.



Adult Enrichment Series

ANIMAL ART

June 29, 1 – 3 p.m

Draw and sketch different Pacific Northwest species from a collection of wildlife mounts! There is no other way to capture the magnificence of these creatures so close up and so still. Mounts, newsprint, and charcoal pencils provided. Challenge your artistic talents while learning about the natural history of the area you live in. Registration required.

Ages: 12+. **Cost:** \$4 Resident; \$5 Non-Resident.

Register at 425-452-6885. **Info:** 425-452-4195. **Course #:** 85168



HOT TOPICS IN WASHINGTON STATE: DISAPPEARING BEES

August 24, 1 – 2 p.m

Honeybees have been disappearing in recent years at alarming rates; creating a sticky situation for humans, as bees pollinate one third of food crops. Recent studies have revealed several sources of this bee crisis. Come learn about these hazards, and find out what you can do to help!

Ages: 12+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



Living With Wildlife Series

How do I get the deer to stop eating my rose bushes? What do I do about mountain beavers in my yard? Just how smart are those crows and ravens going through my garbage? How fortunate we are to live in a city full of wildlife! But this also leaves us with the responsibility of learning how to live with our furry and feathered neighbors. Learn about the wildlife that lives in and around Bellevue and how to live in harmony with wild animals.

TREE SQUIRRELS

May 18, 1 – 2 p.m.

Deer are among the most familiar animals of Washington, and in many places they are the largest wildlife that people encounter. Learn how to identify between mule deer, black-tailed deer and white-tailed deer and which lawn plants are deer-resistant! Registration required. Registration required. **Ages:** 12+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required.



AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

July 20, 1 – 2 p.m.

American black bears are the most common species of bear in North America; each year there are several sightings around Cougar Mountain! Discover the habits of these lumbering roamers, and how to avoid conflict with them. Registration required. **Ages:** 12+. **Cost:** FREE!

Registration: Not required.



Film Series

Ages: 12+. **Cost:** FREE! **Registration:** Not required. **Info:** 425-452-4195.

PLANET EARTH: FRESH WATER

May 4, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Follow rivers as they run from mountains to the sea, nourishing wildlife along the way. Get a unique look into the animals that inhabit the world's deepest lake, to the world's highest waterfall. Run time 45 mins.



LIFE: CREATURES OF THE DEEP

June 1, 2 – 3 p.m.

Discover marine invertebrates, from the shallow seas off of southern Australia, to the frigid waters beneath frozen sea ice in Antarctica. Run time 60 minutes.

NORTH AMERICA: NO PLACE TO HIDE

July 6, 2 – 3 p.m.

"This film contains a predation scene that may be inappropriate for younger viewers."

North America is a Discovery Channel series featuring amazing cinematography to explore our own backyard and all of the marvels it holds. This episode focuses on the hardships of living on this continent, and how they have shaped all who dare to call it home. Run time 60 minutes.



HUMMINGBIRDS: MAGIC IN THE AIR

August 3, 2 – 3 p.m.

Discover the fast and marvelous lives of the tiniest warm-blooded animals on Earth as they are captured at 500 images per second, from nose dives to mating rituals. Run time 73 minutes.

VISITOR CENTERS



***Mercer Slough Environmental
Education Center***
425-452-2565
1625 118th Avenue SE

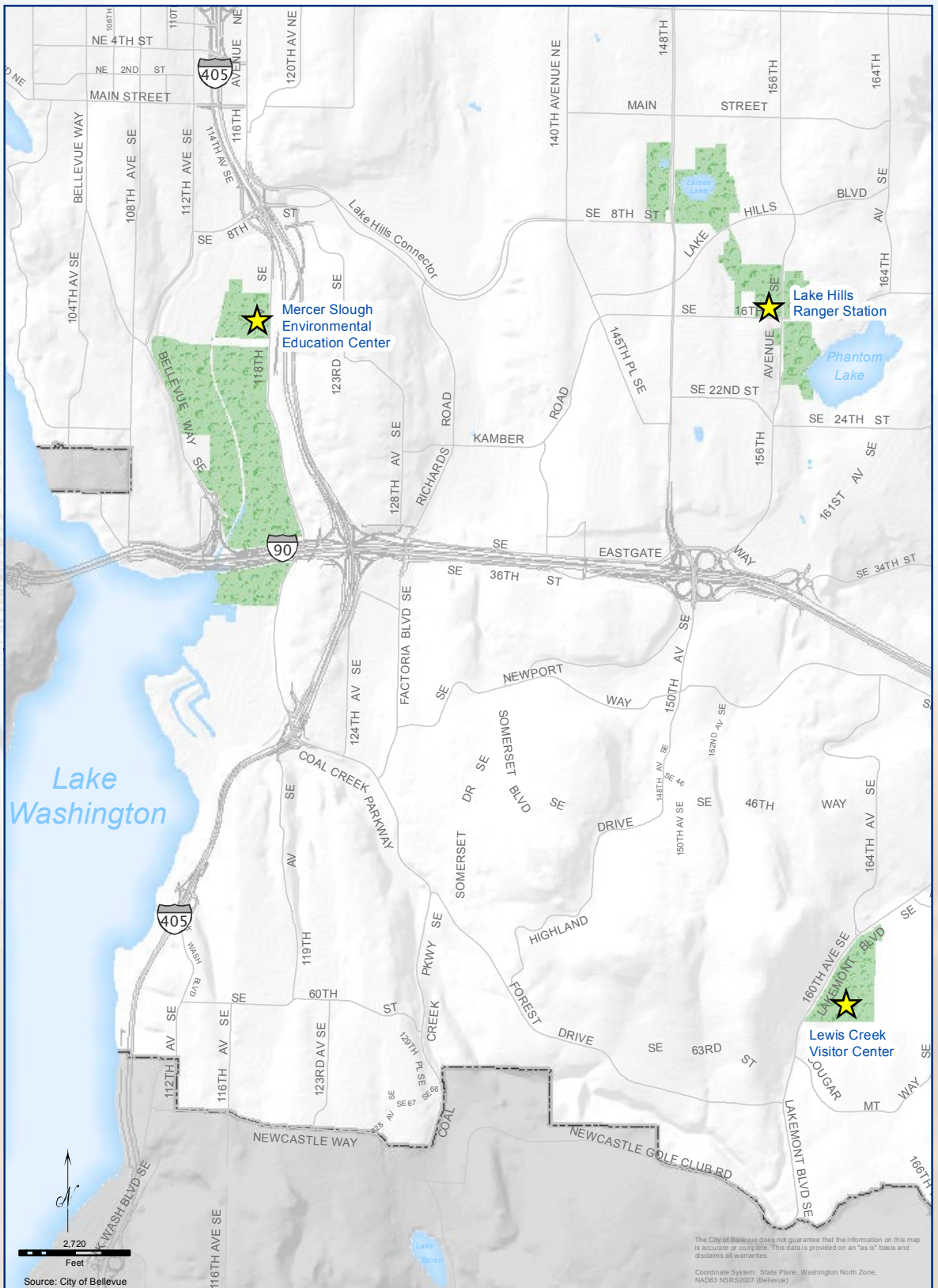


***Lake Hills Greenbelt
Ranger Station***
425-452-7225
15416 SE 16th Street
(15500 SE 16th Street:
Parking Location)



Lewis Creek Visitor Center
425-452-4195
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

VISITOR CENTER LOCATIONS



Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

425-452-2565

1625 118th Avenue SE

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station

425-452-7225

15416 SE 16th Street

15500 SE 16th Street: Parking Location

Lewis Creek Visitor Center

425-452-4195

5808 Lakemont Blvd SE



MyParksandRecreation.com

A Service of eCityGov.net



This information will be provided in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon request. We invite everyone's participation, please provide two weeks advance notice for accommodation requests. Assistance for the Deaf / Hard of hearing can be provided through the 711 Telecommunications Relay Service.

